



Behavioral Health Integration Newsletter

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The Life of an Integrated Primary Care Clinician

What is it like to have an Integrated Primary Care practice? How beneficial is utilizing the expertise of a mental health professional in a primary care medical setting? [Here is a good example.](#) Integrating Behavioral Health into primary care, for this practice, has led to an overall hospital visit reduction, and has also led to reported symptom reduction and decreases in depression prevalence. Moreover, physicians are finding the integrated system to be extremely beneficial for their practice in terms of treatment, consultation and case management. More patients are able to get the appropriate care via consultation between physical and mental health professionals.

Facilitator Modules for Integrated Primary Care Transformation

Practice transformation facilitators are employed in primary care sites around the country helping practices make the changes needed to be recognized as Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMH). Other practices are working on integrated behavioral health into primary care. If the two transformations are done at once, the outcomes can be better and the disruption is minimized. [Training modules](#) were developed to orient PCMH practice facilitators on the

Integrated Health Careers: The Future of the Primary Care Behavioral Health Workforce

Finding the workforce of mental health professionals trained to function successfully as behavioral health clinicians in primary care and other health settings is getting harder and harder as integrated behavioral health is being implemented across the country. Numerous folks-in-the-know are calling it a workforce crisis. Mental health professionals just coming out of their graduate training, or those who have worked for a while in specialty mental health, struggle to adapt to the culture, pace, and routines of care in primary care. At the same time, the need to specialty mental health professionals is also acute, so the idea that a large percentage of new mental health professionals will want to train to work in primary care so they can be assured of getting a job is not proving to be the case. [What's a health system committed in integrated primary care to do?](#)

Make Health Whole

Medical care cost reduction, improved health outcomes, and greater access to care are just some of the reasons provided by the [Make Health Whole](#) movement for the implementation of integrated primary care practices. This site provides an abundance of resources and information applicable to the community, policy leaders, philanthropists, educators, payers, and providers and practice leaders for the implementation of integration. Through these resources, Make Health Whole aims to provide resources to stake-holders regarding the organization, and appropriate financial and operational aspects of integration implementation, as a movement towards primary care integration.

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